

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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Z O 251728Z AUG 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2287  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5007

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG MESSAGE ON ZAMBIAN COMPLICITY IN  
KATIMA MULILO ATTACK

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM BRAND  
FOURIE DESCRIBING "CIRCUMSTANCES (WHICH) LEAD CLEARLY  
TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE  
AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE PLANNING AND THE  
EXECUTION OF THE UNPROVOKED BOMBARDMENT, BY SWAPO TERRORISTS  
AND ZAMBIAN SOLDIERS", OF KATIMA MULILO. SAME MESSAGE HAS  
BEEN SENT TO BRITISH, FRENCH, CANADIAN, AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS  
AND TO THE UNSYG.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

AT 01H15 ON 23 AUGUST 1978 AN ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED FROM ZAMBIA  
ON THE TOWNS OF KATIMO MULILO (CAPRIVI) AND NGWEZI AND THE SOUTH  
AFRICAN MILITARY BASE AT KATIMO MULILO AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN  
MILITARY POST AT WENELLA. 122MM ROCKETS AND MORTARS BASED AT THE  
TOWN OF SESHEKE IN ZAMBIA AND ON THE WEST BANK OF THE ZAMBEZI

RIVER WERE FIRED AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTALLATIONS CAUSING THE DEATH OF 10 MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES WITH 8 INJURED. THE FIRE WAS RETURNED.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED, ON THE BASIS OF CONFIRMED INFORMATION, THAT THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES BOTH AT SESHEKE AND IN LUSAKA WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE NATURE TIMING AND EXTENT OF THE ATTACK. FURTHERMORE, THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE FULLY INFORMED OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ZAMBIAN UNIT AT SESHEKE IN THE ATTACK WHEN THEY FIRED MOTARS ON KATIMO MULILO BETWEEN 2 AND 4 A.M. ON 23 AUGUST 1978 AND DIRECTED ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AT A SOUTH AFRICAN HELICOPTER AT 14H15 ON 23 AUGUST 1978.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES LEAD CLEARLY TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE PLANNING AND THE EXECUTION OF THE UNPROVOKED BOMBARDMENT, BY SWAPO TERRORISTS AND ZAMBIAN SOLDIERS, OF THE ABOVE LOCATIONS WHICH INCLUDE CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS:

(AL MORE THAN 600 SWAPO TERRORISTS WERE SITUATED IN AND AROUND THE SMALL VILLAGE OF SESHEKE IN ZAMBIA AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK. THEIR PRESENCE ON ZAMBIAN SOIL AND THEIR VIOLENT INTENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN TO THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES (A UNIT OF THE ZAMBIAN DEFENCE FORCE IS BASED AT SESHEKE).

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(B) SEVERAL LARGE (5 TON) TRUCKS WERE USED BY SWAPO TO TRANSPORT PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO THE POSITIONS FROM WHICH THE FIRING TOOK PLACE. THESE MASSIVE MOVEMENTS ALONG ROADS AND ACROSS THE ZAMBEZI BY PONTOONS (CONTROLLED BY ZAMBIAN POLICE) COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT OF THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES.

(C) LIKEWISE, THE LARGE ROCKET LAUNCHERS FROM WHICH THE 122 MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO POSITION WITHOUT ZAMBIAN KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL. NEITHER COULD THE AGGRESSIVE PURPOSE OF THIS EQUIPMENT HAVE ESCAPED THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES (THIS EQUIPMENT MUST HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED OVER ZAMBIAN TERRITORY OVER LONG DISTANCES TO THE SITES AT WHICH THEY WERE DEPLOYED.)

(D) ZAMBIAN REPORTS ON 24 AUGUST 1978 OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AT SESHEKE PROVIDES PROOF THAT LUSAKA WAS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE. (SESHEKE WAS ONE OF THE LOCATIONS FROM WHICH THE BOMBARDMENT WAS LAUNCHED ON KATIMO MULILO AND IT WAS UN-AVOIDABLE THAT CIVILIANS WOULD BE HIT IN THE RETURN OF FIRE.)

(E) TERRORISTS WERE CAPTURED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY

FORCES IN FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND THEY HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES KNEW BEFOREHAND OF THE ATTACK ON KATIMO MULILO.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE OBJECTION TO THIS ACTION WHICH CLEARLY TOOK PLACE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONCURRENCE OF THE ZAMBIAN MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES. NOT ONLY DOES IT THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA BUT IT ENDANGERS PEACE IN THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PLACES IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.

THESE FACTS ARE ALSO BEING BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION  
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OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. END TEXT  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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